

Meeting:	Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	17 February 2005
Subject:	Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Re-development of Northwick Park Hospital
Responsible Officer:	Director of Organisational Performance
Contact Officer:	Susie Schwartz
Portfolio Holder:	Social Services and Health
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

That the Sub-Committee recommend (to Council)

1. formally agree to form a joint health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Brent Council to consider the proposals for the re-development of Northwick Park Hospital and,
2. nominate two non-executive members to represent Harrow on the joint committee.

Reason for report

The purpose of this report is:

- to give the Committee an overview of the consultation process and timeframes for North West London NHS Trust proposals to rebuild Northwick Park Hospital, and
- to recommend that a joint health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established to respond to these proposals.

Benefits

A joint scrutiny approach would ensure that the Committee is able to add value to proposals to redevelop Northwick Park Hospital.

Cost of Proposals

The costs associated with this proposal involve officer time spent supporting Harrow's participation in the joint committee and/or any contribution that may be required towards the cost of running the Committee. Resource contributions would be negotiated with other Councils participating on the joint Committee at a later date. There is sufficient financial resource within the scrutiny budget to contribute to this joint initiative.

Risks

There are no identifiable risks associated with this proposal.

Implications if recommendations rejected

If the Committee agrees that the proposals would lead to a 'substantial' variation in services but do not agree to form a joint committee, this would not be in compliance with statutory requirements.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

2.1.1 North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (the Trust) is proposing to redevelop Northwick Park Hospital. The Trust informed the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee about the proposed redevelopment process in June 2004. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee also received a presentation on the redevelopment at its meeting in September 2004.

2.1.2 The Trust aims to transform Northwick Park into a modern hospital and to integrate acute hospital services with local community and primary care

- services. The Trust proposes to build a new hospital towards the rear of the existing site and to demolish the old buildings once the new site is operational. In July 2004, the Secretary of State for Health approved the Trust's proposal to redevelop the hospital and funding was secured. A project board has been established and a project manager appointed. The Trust will invite tenders for contracts to rebuild the hospital in January 2006.
- 2.1.3 The Trust has a duty to consult scrutiny committees of boroughs likely to be affected by its proposals. According to the Secretary of State's direction (2003), if the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee agrees that the proposals would lead to a 'substantial' variation in services, it must form a joint health Overview and Scrutiny committee with other boroughs consulted by the Trust in order to comment on these proposals.
- 2.1.4 The Trust proposes to reconfigure services in-line with the NHS modernization agenda, using a model of patient care similar to one that will be piloted at the Brent Emergency Care and Diagnostic (BECaD) centre at Central Middlesex Hospital. The proposed model of care consists of a series of 'super-teams' combining hospital and community services. While there will not necessarily be any change in the range of services available post redevelopment, the way in which services will be delivered will be a significant change. The service reconfiguration will have implications for health and social service functions in both Harrow and Brent. The proposed service model will also mean there are fewer beds at the hospital and more emphasis will be placed on care in the community. As these proposals are likely to lead to a substantial variation in service provision, it is recommended that a joint health Overview and Scrutiny committee be established with Brent Council and other councils that choose to participate.
- 2.1.5 A draft consultation document outlining detailed proposals will be published in February. In order to have early input into this document and to contribute to the consultation process, it is recommended that the joint committee be established as soon as possible. Formal consultation on the proposals will take place from April until the end of July.
- 2.1.6 If established, the joint committee would produce a single, consensual report once it completed its scrutiny review. The Trust must respond in writing to any requests for responses to the report or recommendations within 28 days of receipt of the request.
- 2.2 Process for setting up a joint committee
- 2.2.1 The Chair of Health and Social Care sub Committee agreed in principle to set up a joint panel with Brent prior to a meeting of the Brent Health Overview Panel on January 12. This agreement is subject to agreement by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-committee.

2.2.2 In order to undertake effective scrutiny within the known timescales for the project, it is recommended that the joint committee be restricted in size to two members per participating authority.

2.2.3 At its 31 January meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to the following process for appointing Harrow's representatives on the joint health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee nominates two of its Members to serve as Harrow's representatives on the Joint Committee;
2. the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee makes a recommendation directly to Council that the two Members be appointed;
3. Council appoints Harrow's representatives on the joint Committee at its meeting on 24 February 2005.

2.2.4 The committee is asked to note that, where a joint committee is established, the political balance requirement applies for each participating local authority unless members of all authorities agree to waive the requirement. In addition, only non-executive members of the Council may be nominated.

2.3 Next Steps

2.3.1 After Council has appointed Harrow's representatives on the committee, the joint health Overview and Scrutiny committee will meet to agree its terms of reference and to negotiate resource contributions to the committee.

2.3.2 As a starting point, Brent Council has proposed the following broad Terms of Reference for the committee:

- To consider the adequacy of the consultation being carried out by the health bodies involved and to contribute to that process
- To consider the implications of the rebuilding proposals and proposed new model of service provision on service users and residents within the catchment of the hospital.

2.4 Consultation

2.4.1 The redevelopment of Northwick Park Hospital has been the subject of previous reports/information provided to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Preliminary discussions at officer level have been undertaken with Brent Council to discuss the need to establish a joint scrutiny committee.

2.5 Legal Implications

2.5.1 Under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002, NHS bodies have a duty to consult an overview and scrutiny committee on:

- any proposals it may have under consideration for any substantial development of the health service in its area; or
- any proposal to make a substantial variation in the provision of such services.

2.5.2 According to the Secretary of State's direction issued on 17th July 2003, health Overview and Scrutiny Committees *must* form joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to respond to consultations from the NHS about proposals for developments or variations in services (affecting people in more than one local authority area) that relevant health Overview and Scrutiny Committees consider to be 'substantial.' Only a joint Overview and Scrutiny committee may

- make comments of the proposal consulted on to the local NHS body
- require the local NHS body to provide information about the proposal
- require an officer or the local NHS body to attend before it to answer questions about the proposals.

2.6 Financial Implications

2.6.1 Any costs associated with this proposal would have to be contained within approved budgets.

2.7 Equalities Impact

2.7.1 The Joint Committee will address equalities issues when scrutinising the proposals for the redevelopment of Northwick Park Hospital.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

None.